

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, EAID, SA

SUBJECT: DESALINATION RESEARCH CENTER

REF: JIDDA 1689

1. USG IS WILLING TO SEND TEAM TO INITIATE PLANNING FOR DESALINATION RESEARCH CENTER ASAP. HOWEVER, TOTAL EXCLUSION OF QTE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES UNQTE IS A NEW WRINKLE. SEPTEMBER WORKING GROUP REPORT CALLED FOR QTE MORE QUALIFIED SPECIALISTS FROM INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS. UNQTE.

2. AS EMBASSY MAY NOW BE AWARE, AT RECENT JOINT COMMISSION SESSION AT SAUDI REQUEST, INTERIOR PROVIDED PROPOSAL TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEND USG TEAM TO, INTER ALIA, DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT

ACTIVITIES SAUDIS WANT CONDUCTED AT CENTER AND TO DEVELOP PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE SAUDI OBJECTIVES. US PROPOSAL PROMISED TEAM WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF SAUDI ACCEPTANCE. THIS OFFER STILL OPEN AND COULD BE MODIFIED TO INCLUDE NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPECIALISTS, SUCH AS PERSONNEL FROM OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY, WHICH IS OPERATED UNDER CONTRACT FOR ERDA BY UNION CARBIDE.

3. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT TO PRINCE MUHAMMED THAT CO-

ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES UNDER JOINT COMMISSION FRAMEWORK DOES NOT REQUIRE PARTICIPATION BY A USG ACTION AGENCY IN A PROJECT, BUT SUCH PARTICIPATION IS NECESSARY IF SAG DESIRES ANY USG OVERSIGHT ON MUTUALLY AGREED DESALINATION INITIATIVES.

4. BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION, WE WILL AWAIT EITHER SAUDI RESPONSE TO INTERIOR PROPOSAL OR RECEIPT OF NAMES PRINCE MUHAMMED PROMISED TO SEND TO EMBASSY. IF SAUDIS GO LATTER ROUTE WE WILL TRY TO EXPEDITE PUTTING TOGETHER TEAM FROM NAMES SUGGESTED OR OTHER PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS IF THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

5. COMMERCE WILL RESPOND ON FACT-FINDING MISSION ON RETURN ARTHUR BOUDREAU FROM CAIRO DESALINATION CONFERENCE APPROXIMATELY MARCH 18.

6. FUTURE MESSAGES THIS SUBJECT SHOULD INCLUDE SLUG FOR OES. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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